



**November 26, 2003**

## **Pennsylvania man is sentenced for Internet auction fraud**

A federal judge today sentenced **Ryan J. Craig**, 20, of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, to 27 months in federal prison for defrauding users of Internet auction sites by selling nonexistent merchandise. Craig and a codefendant from Rhode Island conned at least 40 victims out of at least \$77,067 through fraudulent auctions.

The Office of the United States Attorney announced the sentence, which U.S. District Court Judge William E. Smith imposed today in U.S. District Court, Providence. At the recommendation of Assistant U.S. Attorney Dulce Donovan, Judge Smith also ordered Craig to make restitution totaling \$58,000 to the victims.

At a hearing in August during which Craig pleaded guilty to wire fraud conspiracy, Assistant U.S. Attorney Luis M. Matos said that, had the case gone to trial, the government would have proven that Craig entered into a conspiracy with **Arthur Jordan**, of North Kingstown, to auction nonexistent items on various online auction services, including eBay, and to keep the money forwarded to them by the duped bidders.

In October and November 2001, using a series of fraudulent screen and personal names, Craig posted numerous fraudulent auction listings, offering to sell items such as personal computers and camera equipment, none of which he possessed or intended to sell.

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### **40 victims**

Craig instructed the winning bidders to wire the purchase amount, plus shipping charges, to a bank account in Jordan's name in Rhode Island. The government would have proven that Craig and Jordan induced approximately 40 victims to wire at least \$77,067 to Jordan's account in Rhode Island. Jordan then wired most of the funds to a Pennsylvania bank account in Craig's name.

### **Jordan**

On September 12, Jordan, 34, of 505 Ten Rod Road, North Kingstown, was sentenced to 24 months probation and ordered to make restitution in the same amount as Craig. In June 2002, Jordan pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit wire fraud.

The **U.S. Postal Inspection Service** investigated the case. Assistant U.S. Attorney Donovan prosecuted it, with assistance from Assistant U.S. Attorney Matos.

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